

MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

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A. Missouri Self Assessment

Cluster (FAPE in LRE):

Component BF5 - Is continuous progress made by children with disabilities within the state's system for educational accountability?

Indicator - Do children with disabilities participate in state/district wide general assessment programs with appropriate test modifications and accommodations as needed across districts and comparable to national data?

Page 24 Committee Conclusions:

"According to the information above, slightly more than 4 percent of special education students are not participating in the statewide Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing. The primary reasons for not participating were that the student was absent or that the Individualized education program (IEP) team had decided that the student should take the MAP-Alternate but the student did not participate in the MAP-A that particular year. Other data (not provided in this report) shows that participation rates have improved since the first mandatory years of MAP testing. Approximately 72 percent of students with disabilities received modification and/or accommodations on the MAP assessments. The test accommodations are made up of three main types: approximately 30 percent are Oral Reading of the Assessment, 30 percent are testing with Small Group and 25 percent are Extended Testing Sessions. Since the MAP exams are used only in Missouri, we do not have national data for comparison purposes. The May 2002 OSEP Biennial Performance Report gathered information from all states on participation rates. This summary data for National Comparisons is not available at this time."

B. OSEP Monitoring

Part B Statewide Assessment: Missouri states on page 24 of the Free Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment (FAPE-LRE) Section of the Self Assessment that some students whom the IEP team decided should take the alternate assessment did not actually take that assessment. The statement indicates that the State does not ensure that children with disabilities participate in the alternate assessment if the IEP team determines that it is not appropriate for them to participate in the regular assessment, as required by 34 CFR §300.347 (a)(5).

C. DESE Response

DESE disagrees with OSEP's findings. The intent of the conclusions was misunderstood. All Missouri students are included in the accountability system

MAP-A assessment is completed in grades 4, 8, and 11. An IEP team could make a decision that a student, in grade 3, should take the MAP-A. Since the assessment is not given in grade 3, the student would not participate in the MAP-A that particular year. The student would participate in the MAP-A assessment the next year, at grade 4, when the test is administered.

Current MAP-A Data	2001	2002
Number of MAP-A Eligible students	1538	1536
Number of MAP-A Portfolio's submitted	536	813
Percentage of MAP-A Eligible reported	0.18%	0.37%